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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                    FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON
3
     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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                     Plaintiff,
                                       ) No. 05-60008-2-HO
5
                                        ) September 27, 2011
       v.
6
     PIROUZ SEDAGHATY, et al.,
                                        ) Eugene, Oregon
7
                     Defendants.
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               TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING PROCEEDINGS
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              BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHAEL R. HOGAN
                UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
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                     Deborah Wilhelm, CSR, RPR
                           Court Reporter
24
                           P.O. Box 1504
                         Eugene, OR 97440
25
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             (Tuesday, September 27, 2011; 1:37 p.m.)
                      PROCEEDINGS
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             THE CLERK: This is the time set for Criminal
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    Case 05-60008, United States of America versus Pirouz
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    Sedaghaty, time set for sentencing.
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             THE COURT: I am familiar with your papers.
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    Happy to hear anything more you wish to add.
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             MR. WAX: Your Honor, we do not have a lot to
    say. We had identified a number of issues in the
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    pleadings and in the hearing last November on which we
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    believe rulings are needed in anticipation of the
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    sentencing.
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             If it would help, I could go through the list.
    If you'd like any more input on any of them, we're happy
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    to provide it. If not, I don't have anything more to
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    add.
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             THE COURT: I don't really think I need that.
    If you don't hear about something, then bring it up.
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    Why don't we do it that way?
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             MR. WAX: Fine. Thank you, Your Honor.
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             MR. CARDANI: Judge, we, too, having nothing
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    else to add. For purposes of sentencing, the case was
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    thoroughly briefed in the government's sentencing
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    memorandum for last November's session. We stand on
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    that.
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             And we would ask the court to make specific
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    findings on the sentencing guideline issues up for
    grabs, and as well Mr. Wax did file a number of specific
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    objections to the presentence report that will require
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    Rule 32 findings.
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             THE COURT: Yes. All right.
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             MR. WAX: Your Honor, Mr. Sedaghaty would like
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    to make a brief comment to the court before you impose
    sentence depending on --
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             THE COURT: That's next.
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             MR. WAX: Thank you.
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             THE COURT: Sir, if you would like to stand.
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    Have you read the presentence report --
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
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             THE COURT: -- Mr. Sedaghaty?
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
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             THE COURT: And have you talked to your lawyers
    about it?
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             THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
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             THE COURT: If you have a comment or any
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    statement you wish to make about what is in that report
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    or any other matter before I make my findings and impose
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    sentence, now is your opportunity to do so, sir.
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             THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, Your Honor. I
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    wanted to thank you for -- on my behalf and my family's
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behalf to give us a chance to spend the last nine months, it was very meaningful and very valuable to us.

Thank you very much.

THE COURT: All right. Is there anything further?

Okay. Let's go to the particular findings the court must make. One objection was to the recommendation concerning tax loss. And I find that the defendant knew that he falsified lines 1, 22 and 57a of the form, and verified the return by written declaration made under penalties of perjury.

And I find the tax loss under the calculations submitted in the presentence report are accurate. And that it is \$80,980.

With regard to obstruction of justice, and that requested -- or that recommended two-level increase, between September 2003 and October 2003, two false agreements were signed by defendant for the same transaction and given to IRS by legal representation for the al-Haramain Foundation and the defendant in response to a subpoena. The agreement was material to the investigation because it documented Mr. al-But'he's receipt and transportation of the El-Fiki donation from Ashland to Saudi Arabia, and, therefore, I will impose a two-level increase for obstruction of justice.

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There is a recommended-by-probation increase for sophisticated or intricate, complex means. And Mr. Sedaghaty and Mr. al-But'he, I find, engaged in especially complex and intricate conduct when they withdrew the El-Fiki donation from the Bank of America account in Ashland, converted it to 130 traveler's checks, each for \$1,000 and one -- and another cashier's check, and transported the checks by plane to a bank in Saudi Arabia, that's Mr. al-But'he, where it would be very difficult for authorities to track and detect the money, and the purpose for which it was used, and, therefore, I impose a two-level increase under specific offense characteristics.

Now, the -- I believe the remaining increase sought by the government is for application of a terrorism enhancement. And there is little doubt in my mind that this money went to Chechnya, and that it went to the mujahideen, but I find there has been a failure to prove the terrorist enhancement because of the -- certainly by clear and convincing evidence, which I think is appropriate here under the Ninth Circuit case law, because of the failure to prove a link between the defendant and the money being used for terrorist activities. There is no doubt the Chechen mujahideen were involved in terrorist activities, but there hasn't

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been that link proved for this defendant.
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             What other findings do you request for the
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    underlying sentence?
             MR. CARDANI: Judge, before Mr. Wax speaks on
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    the tax loss, there is an argument that under the Ninth
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    Circuit law that because the tax loss increases the
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    sentence under the guidelines fairly significantly, that
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    the burden of proof should be clear and convincing
    evidence. Does the court so find?
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             THE COURT: Yes.
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             MR. CARDANI: I think those were all of the
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    quideline issues, and the others would relate to the
    Rule 32 matters.
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             THE COURT: All right.
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             MR. WAX: One moment, please, Your Honor.
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             THE COURT: Excuse me, yes. Go ahead.
             (Discussion held off the record between Mr. Wax
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    and Mr. Matasar.)
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             MR. WAX: Your Honor, your ruling on the
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    terrorism enhancement obviates the need for a number of
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    the other specific objections that we --
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             THE COURT: I'm aware of that. That's why I
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    didn't bother to rule on them.
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             MR. WAX: -- have made. I believe that there
    are still three or four issues that we had raised on
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1 which a ruling would be needed. 2 We had argued that the government should be estopped from raising any claim with respect to tax loss 3 on a number of theories that we articulated in our 4 pleadings and at the hearing in November. 5 THE COURT: Thank you. To the extent that was 6 7 a motion, it's denied. And what's the second? 8 MR. WAX: We had objected to the manner in which the presentence report was prepared, and 9 10 particularly with your reference to the presentence 11 report finding on a tax loss, we believe that that is 12 still germane. 13 As you recall, the presentence writer in the 14 presentence report said that the loss was complex and 15 that -- if I am reading it and understanding it 16 correctly essentially -- it was not something that she understood or could deal with, but nonetheless included 17 a recommendation for the tax loss, and we believe that 18 19 that is not appropriate under Rule 32. THE COURT: Thank you. There was evidence on 20 this at the trial. Was the \$80,000 number given at the 21 22 trial? 23 MR. CARDANI: (Nodding head.) 24 THE COURT: All right. I'll rely on the

evidence before me at the trial. The objection is

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    overruled.
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             MR. CARDANI: I might add that the IRS
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    testified at sentencing as well, and repeated that
    figure, and that there was a form entered at the last
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    sentencing hearing.
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             THE COURT: But you are correct, Mr. Wax, that
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    it's not appropriate just to rely on what the probation
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    officer said. She's not a tax expert. And I heard the
    other testimony.
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             MR. WAX: And then there were a number of
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    specific factual objections that we made at the end of
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    our sentencing letter, many of which are obviated
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    because they related to the terrorism issue. I do not
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    recall whether any of them -- well, yes, one of them did
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    specifically --
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             THE COURT: If there is one, tell me. I went
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    over this again in the last couple of hours, and I don't
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    remember any that didn't relate.
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             MR. WAX: Let me just double check, please, to
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    see whether any of them are still relevant. May I have
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    a moment with Mr. Matasar, please, Your Honor?
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             THE COURT: Yes.
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             (Discussion held off the record between Mr. Wax
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    and Mr. Matasar.)
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             MR. WAX: Your Honor, here is the concern that
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I have, and I don't want to take up the court's time and
seek rulings that are unnecessary: While you have ruled
that you will not be applying the terrorism enhancement,
some of the facts in the presentence report could be
relevant if the court is looking at them in terms of
a -- either a place in the advisory quideline range or a
variance from the quideline range. And such --
paragraph 12, as an example, recites that, you know,
Agil al-Agil delegated Mr. al-But'he to establish a
presence for AHIF in the United States. We don't
believe there is any evidentiary support for that.
         If the terrorism enhancement issue in its
entirety is out of the case, then I don't believe that
rulings are needed on that type of objection in the
presentence report. If, however, you are still
considering some of the terrorist aspects of the case
for reasons other than the advisory calculation, then I
think that it would be necessary to address a number of
these specific factual challenges that we raised in our
sentencing memorandum.
         THE COURT: Well, if I were relying on them,
I'd make rulings on them.
         MR. WAX: I'm sorry?
         THE COURT: If I were relying on them for --
concerning the length of this sentence, I would make
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    rulings on them.
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             MR. WAX: Thank you.
             THE COURT: Is there anything further?
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             MR. CARDANI: Judge, just on the money, the
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    repayment of legal fees, that's addressed also in our
6
    sentencing --
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             THE COURT: Let's take that up after this.
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             MR. CARDANI: Nothing further.
             THE COURT: We do have to consider that.
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                                                        And
    we'll do that in a moment.
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11
             All right. Well, Mr. Sedaghaty, based on these
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    rulings, I find the total offense level here is 18; and
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    the Criminal History Category I for an advisory range of
    27 to 33 months.
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             I've considered the advisory guideline range
    and the 3553(a) factors. I have selected a sentence
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    that addresses the nature and circumstances of the
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18
    offense, and the defendant's history and
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    characteristics; protection of the public and to afford
    adequate deterrence to criminal conduct; particularly
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    significant to me here is the obstruction of justice
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    enhancement.
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             As to count 1, the defendant is committed to
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    the Bureau of Prisons for confinement for a period of
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    33 months;
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As to count 2, the defendant is committed to the Bureau of Prisons for confinement for a period of 33 months, to be served concurrently with the sentence imposed in count 1. Upon release, the defendant shall serve a three-year term of supervised release, subject to the standard conditions and the following special conditions: The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA. The defendant shall participate in a mental health treatment program approved by probation. The defendant is prohibited from incurring new credit charges or opening additional lines of credit without approval of probation. The defendant shall authorize release to probation of any and all financial information by execution of a release of financial information form or other appropriate means. The defendant's employment is subject to

The defendant's employment is subject to approval of probation.

The defendant shall disclose all assets and liabilities to probation and not transfer or otherwise convey any asset with a fair market value in excess of \$500 without approval of probation.

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The defendant shall have no contact with individuals known to be involved or have been involved in any activities which support terrorist activities or organizations.

The defendant shall not participate in any groups or organizations that support terrorist activities.

The defendant shall pay restitution to the victim identified in the presentence report in the amount of \$80,980. Any unpaid balance at the time of release from custody shall be paid at the maximum installment possible and not less than \$100 per month.

The defendant shall pay all taxes due and owing as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

The defendant shall file true and accurate income tax returns to the Internal Revenue Service by the 15th of April each year, and supply a copy of that return to the probation office as directed.

The defendant shall submit a true and accurate tax return that he failed to file as determined by Internal Revenue Service.

The defendant shall meet with the Internal Revenue Service to determine his legal obligation to file tax returns, pay taxes, and sign any IRS forms deemed necessary by the IRS to enable the IRS to make an

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immediate assessment of that portion of the tax and
interest that he agrees to pay as restitution, including
IRS Form 8821, tax information authorization.
         No fine is ordered due to lack of financial
resources and other obligations in this -- other
financial obligations through this sentencing.
         The defendant shall pay a $250 fee assessment,
due immediately in full.
         Sir, you have the right to appeal from this
sentence under certain circumstances. A notice of
appeal must be filed within 14 days of entry of
judgment.
         If you are unable to pay the cost of an appeal,
you may apply for leave to appeal in forma pauperis.
And if you request, the clerk of court will prepare and
file a notice of appeal on your behalf.
         Do you understand, sir?
         THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
         THE COURT: All right. Now, there are other
matters that we need to address, including the
government's motion with regard to funds that were
available to the defendant; whether the government's
motion for -- concerning whether the defendant should be
incarcerated at this time, that should be granted; and
what are the other matters which I need to consider?
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MR. WAX: Your Honor, we have been going through the record and have put together a chart which reflects things that we believe need to be made clear in the record. We also have a request for unsealing certain transcripts. And I don't know that we would be able to complete work on the chart today. Our thought was perhaps we would provide it to the government and the court, and see if we can agree on certain things, and then --THE COURT: File something if you need to. MR. WAX: We have it. We can file it -- well, we'll make sure it gets filed with the Clerk's Office today and we'll provide a copy to the government. But we see that Mr. Slade is here and his input might be needed on some of those issues since many of the matters with respect to the record involve some of the CIPA proceedings. THE COURT: He's here, but someone from his office today -- I won't say who -- congratulated me today on achieving senior citizenship, so I don't know how I feel about that. Go ahead. MR. CARDANI: We'll be happy to meet with

Mr. Wax and Mr. Matasar afterwards to see if we can come

to an agreement which would obviate the need for the

1 court's ruling. 2 THE COURT: Now, with regard to the -- there are two affidavits that I had when the defendant sought 3 appointed counsel. What, if any, basis is there that 4 they be sealed at this time? 5 (Discussion held off the record between Mr. Wax 6 7 and Mr. Matasar.) 8 MR. WAX: Your Honor, I did not review those affidavits before the proceeding today. Our recall of 9 10 their contents is not complete. 11 As a general proposition, the information which 12 a defendant provides to the court in the counsel process is between the defendant and the court. The government 13 does not have a specific role in that. 14 15 If I am recalling correctly, these are affidavits or declarations from counsel? 16 17 THE COURT: No, from your -- from counsel, yes, 18 but from your client. 19 MR. WAX: As well? 20 THE COURT: Yes. And there were -- they are 21 affidavits concerning his financial situation, and they 22 differ. And I don't know how -- at least with regard to 23 one aspect of them -- I can make a decision on it 24 without the government having the opportunity to 25 respond.

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MR. WAX: Before we take a position on their
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2
    unsealing, may I have the opportunity to review them and
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    refresh my recollection as to their contents?
             THE COURT: Yes.
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             MR. WAX: I do not have them with me, so if I
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    can borrow the court's copy?
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             THE COURT: They are not that long. Go ahead
    and hand these to Mr. Wax, please.
8
             MR. CARDANI: Judge, while he's reviewing that,
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    there was a reference in the record to a letter sent by
    Mr. Wax to the court on November 1, 2007, docketed under
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12
    seal, also concerning funds.
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             THE COURT: That's in one of these envelopes.
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             MR. CARDANI: Okay.
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             THE COURT: I think it's the same one. I don't
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    remember the date on the letter, but there is a letter
    there.
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             (Discussion held off the record between Mr. Wax
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19
    and Mr. Matasar.)
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             MR. WAX: Your Honor, upon rereading the
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    affidavits and the letter, it -- I believe that they
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    should remain sealed; that they are not matters that the
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    government either should be or needs to be privy to.
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    They discuss a variety of attorney-client matters. And
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    information that is contained therein, a --
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THE COURT: Well, they have statements that
conflict each other. They also have very sketchy sorts
of statements about one aspect of it that certainly I
need to know more about.
         How do you suggest I do that without someone --
without a worthy adversary, as they say?
        MR. WAX: Well, Your Honor, as a general
proposition, the assignment of counsel issues are
addressed ex parte and ex parte between the court,
defendant and his counsel. And in the same manner that
the court addressed the --
         THE COURT: That's true. I think we're at a
different stage at this, aren't we, now?
        MR. WAX: Well, Your Honor --
         THE COURT: I'm going to give you each a week
to submit something on that question.
        MR. WAX: Thank you.
                      Judge, before we leave this
        MR. CARDANI:
issue, we are, obviously, in the dark on most of it, but
there does appear to have been close to $59,000 posted
as bond for Defendant Sedaghaty's release. And if
that's sufficiently connected to him, it would appear as
though that money is available, at the very least, to
the repayment of the three-thousand-and-six so long as
the government has paid out in excess of that for his
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    defense.
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             THE COURT: Mr. Cardani, that is unclear from
    what I have. But I will not authorize any of that money
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    to be released. And my other -- my previous order
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    regarding any sums referred to in these sealed documents
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    stands at this point.
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             Now, I do see one other motion, I thought
8
    probably needed a ruling. You had a defense motion to
    strike Government's Exhibit Number 1 because it included
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10
    Social Security and Taxpayer Identification Numbers. I
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    think that motion should be granted, but I'll allow the
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    government to file a copy of those returns that don't
13
    have that identifying information.
             MR. CARDANI: Excuse me, I think we already
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15
    dealt with that at the last hearing.
16
             THE COURT: Oh, we have? Okay. It was in my
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    file of paper and I didn't know why I missed it before.
18
    So thank you very much.
             MR. CARDANI: If that motion hasn't been --
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             THE COURT: I'll file that motion.
21
             MR. CARDANI: Okay. If that ruling hasn't been
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    reflected in the record, we have no objection to
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    granting it.
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             THE COURT: All right. Is there anything at
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    this time besides the motion to remand to custody?
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MR. WAX: Well, in addition to that matter, Your Honor, we would request that the court recommend that Mr. Seda be permitted to serve his sentence at the camp at Sheridan. We believe that given the --THE COURT: Granted. MR. WAX: Thank you. MR. MATASAR: Thank you. Thank you. THE COURT: All right. Is there any more argument on the motion to remand? MR. GORDER: Your Honor, on behalf of the government, we had prepared at the last hearing, and we never got there, a spreadsheet of entries and exits from various countries in the Middle East that Mr. Sedaghaty, from his passports, U.S. and Iranian, I think we had given a copy to the defense back in November, but I'd submit it at this time for the court. Just as summary, it shows that at least 20 occasions between 2003 and 2007 he entered and exited various countries in the Middle East: Oman, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iran. And I would also point the court to an exhibit that the defense filed in CR 44 back early in the case, Exhibit G, which was Mr. Sedaghaty's own explanation of where he was during some of that time period. And it just shows, without a doubt, his abilities to float

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around the Middle East, all countries of which we do not have extradition treaties with. THE COURT: Anything further? MR. MATASAR: Yes, Your Honor. I'd like to respond first to that. It's in the memorandum indicating that that issue and other issues were addressed already by the court in deciding to release Mr. Seda previously. THE COURT: It's a different situation now, He makes a good point. It doesn't mean I'm going to remand him, but we have a different situation now. MR. MATASAR: I understand, Your Honor. Wе have a different situation. But the situation is also different because of the fact that Mr. Seda has an appeal. So I'm looking at this not just as should he be taken into custody immediately, but should he be released pending appeal? And certainly this case -- and now is not the time for me to be trying to convince Your Honor of the incorrectness of your rulings, if you will, but clearly, I think, the court could understand that there are some unusual issues and important issues at stake in this case. That -- and you know better than we do that we don't know what the appellate court is going to do.

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because the decision will likely not be until after he has served his entire sentence, that that is an important factor for the court to consider.

And, finally, let me address the government's position. They have really been wrong every step of the way. They said Mr. Seda was a flight risk before Judge Coffin, and he was released. They said he was a flight risk before you. They said he would not come here today. They said, in their motion, that he has lost hope, there is no reason for him to have any hope, and he continues to appear, he continues to prove them wrong, and to justify the trust that Your Honor and Judge Coffin gave in him. He's going to appear.

Between his empirical data that we have that he always comes to court, that he stays in touch with his lawyers, which is a fact. And the Pretrial Services, I believe they have recommended that he be allowed to voluntarily surrender. Is that accurate? I believe -
THE COURT: I've got the report here, but I'm

THE COURT: I've got the report here, but I'm going to decide that.

MR. MATASAR: I understand that. But just as they made a recommendation pretrial, they make a recommendation here. I'm not suggesting that it's their decision. I know it's Your Honor's decision. But here we have the empirical fact that he has always come, and

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    so we'd ask the court to allow him to be out of custody
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    pending the appeal.
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             THE COURT: All right. Well, there is two
    matters there. One is if you're requesting pending
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    appeal or if I give him a reporting date. And I -- if I
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6
    do not -- if I allow his release but not pending appeal,
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    how long do you wish for him to report?
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             MR. MATASAR: Your Honor, I think if -- Mr. Wax
    informs me that 60 days should be an appropriate time
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10
    for designation.
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             THE COURT: It takes that long, at least.
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             All right. Sir, I want you to understand this,
13
    this is between you and me.
14
             THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
15
             THE COURT: Not the lawyers. So far, you have
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    done what you've told me you'd do. And I'm going to
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    deny the motion to remand because of that. But don't do
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    something to break my confidence in that regard.
19
             So I'm going to leave you on your current
20
    release conditions. But if I hear something even
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    slightly adverse to that, I'll end that state of
22
    affairs. Do you understand me?
23
             THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
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             THE COURT: So the motion is denied. I'll
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    allow 60 days to self report.
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             What else do we have this morning -- or this
2
    afternoon, folks? Thank you very much. We're in
3
    recess.
             MR. WAX: Excuse me, Your Honor, we would ask
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    that you withhold entry of the judgment until we've had
6
    an opportunity to work on the issues with respect to the
7
    record. If you enter the judgment, then --
8
             THE COURT: Any objection?
9
             MR. CARDANI:
                            No.
             THE COURT: Thank you. I'll do it.
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             MR. WAX: We'll let the court know when we're
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    further along with that. Thank you.
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             THE COURT: That's fine.
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             (The proceedings were concluded at 2:14 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Deborah Wilhelm, Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of Oregon, do hereby certify that I was present at and reported in machine shorthand the oral proceedings had in the above-entitled matter. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript, to the best of my skill and ability, dated this 5th day of October, 2011.

/s/ Deborah Wilhelm

Deborah Wilhelm, RPR Certified Shorthand Reporter Certificate No. 00-0363